



DECISION SUPPORT SERVICES SUMMER 2014

The National Weather Service (NWS) provides weather, hydrologic, and climate forecasts and warnings for the United States, its territories, adjacent waters and ocean areas, for the protection of life and property and the enhancement of the national economy.

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iNWS

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SUMMERTIME WEATHER AWARENESS

Summer across the Ozarks means spending time outdoors—trips to the lake, floats down area rivers, and evenings spent around the campfire. However, summer also often means afternoon thunderstorms, flash floods, and dangerous heat, all of which can quickly turn a pleasant outing into a dangerous one.

Because summertime activities often take place in locations far away from substantial shelter, individuals can be particularly vulnerable to weather hazards like thunderstorms, lightning, high winds, and floods.

The National Weather Service provides forecasts of expected weather hazards and



impacts through seven days in the future, and offers numerous ways to receive weather information, even when on the go away from your home or office. Over the next few pages, we'll outline

some of the various ways to receive weather information so you can stay weather-aware this summer.

NWS SPRINGFIELD ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook and Twitter usage continues to grow, and the National Weather Service is taking advantage of social media to reach our partners and customers across southeastern Kansas and the Missouri Ozarks. Information posted to Twitter and Facebook include forecast updates, information on expected or ongoing thunderstorms, and climate facts. Fans and followers are also encouraged to pass on observations of winds, hail, floods, or other severe weather.

While information on severe weather watches and warnings may be posted to Twitter and Facebook, social media is NOT an official source of critical weather information, and should not serve as your only source of weather information. However, social media can be a key way to help stay up-to-date on the latest forecast when you are out and about this summer!

twitter

facebook

Twitter: @NWSSpringfield

Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/US.NationalWeatherService.Springfield.gov>



Summertime weather killers:

97 deaths have been attributed to lightning from **1959 - 2011** in Missouri, an average of 2 deaths per year.

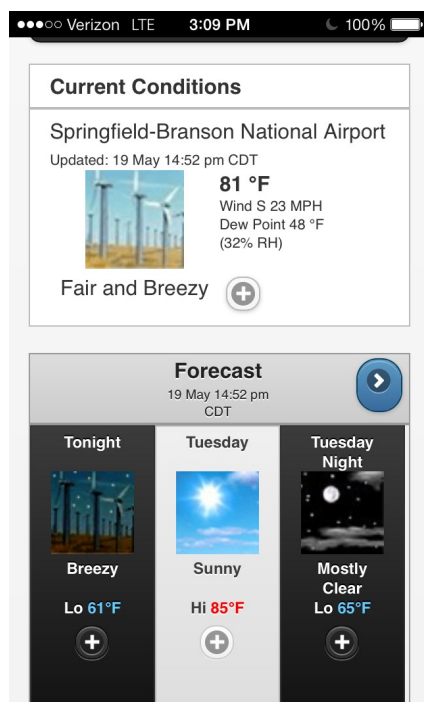
73% of all lightning fatalities occur in the summer months (Jun: 21%, Jul: 30%, Aug: 22%). **84% of all victims are male.**

Since **1980** there have been **996 fatalities** related to excessive heat in Missouri.

From **1999 to 2010**, a total of **7,415 deaths** in the United States, an average of **618 per year**, were associated with exposure to excessive heat.



NWS MOBILE WEB PAGE MOBILE.WEATHER.GOV



Be sure to visit **mobile.weather.gov** for easy to access weather information! This mobile webpage is specially formatted for display on smartphone screens.

From this page, you can ac-

cess forecast information for any location in the United States! This information includes an hour-by-hour forecast of temperature, wind, and probability of precipitation. Current observations, watches, warnings, advisories, and the latest forecast discussion are also

easily accessed from this webpage.

Be sure to bookmark this page on your mobile device for quick access!

NWS CHAT—A DIRECT LINK TO THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

NWSChat is a vital means of communication for core partners in the emergency management, law enforcement, and media communities. NWSChat allows real-time communication to discuss forecasts, clarify information or share storm reports. Each chat room is automatically populated with the latest watches, warnings, and advisories, and updates to important products like the Hazardous Weather Outlook and

Area Forecast Discussion. This feature provides users with an excellent monitoring and situational awareness tool during potentially hazardous weather events.

NWSChat is open to those in the media, emergency management, amateur radio, and law enforcement communities, as well as other local, state, and Federal government partners. NWSChat can be utilized on Windows, Linux,

and Macintosh operating systems. Several applications for mobile devices have also been recently developed. In addition, a web-based version of chat, called "NWSChat Live" is now available!

Additional information on NWSChat, including a link to NWSChat Live, is available at <https://nwschat.weather.gov/>

While iNWS is free to use, additional fees for text messages and mobile internet access may be assessed by cell phone service providers.